

IN THE CLAIMS

Claim 1. (Previously Withdrawn) A vertical bagging apparatus for use with a roll of center folded packaging material, said apparatus comprising:

a) an upstream feeder spool for holding the roll of center folded packaging material, said feeder spool having a vertical axis of rotation such that when the center folded packaging material is unspooled, the center fold is substantially horizontal;

b) inversion means for reorienting the packaging material downstream of said feeder spool, said inversion means reorienting the packaging material such that the center fold is substantially vertical; and

c) sealing means for sealing the packaging material downstream of said inversion means.

Claim 2. (Previously Withdrawn) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein:

said inversion means is substantially inverted-V-shaped.

Claim 3. (Previously Withdrawn) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein:

said inversion means is adjustable to accommodate different sized packaging material.

Claim 4. (Previously Withdrawn) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein:

said inversion means is made from substantially flexible wire.

Claim 5. (Previously Withdrawn) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein:
said sealing means includes a heated bar having a flat head and a sealing surface having a sharp profile.

Claim 6. (Previously Withdrawn) The apparatus according to claim 5, wherein:
said sealing means is a sealing and severing means for sealing the packaging material and severing it from the roll.

Claim 7. (Previously Withdrawn) The apparatus according to claim 6, wherein:
said sealing and severing means includes two pivot arms and a piston actuator.

Claim 8. (Previously Withdrawn) The apparatus according to claim 7, wherein:
said two pivot arms are coupled to each other by gears.

Claim 9. (Currently Amended) A vertical bagging apparatus for use with a roll of center folded packaging material, said apparatus comprising:

a) an upstream feeder spool for holding the roll of center folded packaging material; and

b) a downstream sealing and severing means for sealing the packaging material and severing it from the roll, wherein

said sealing and severing means includes a heated bar having a flat head and an opposed, ~~resilient~~ compliant, non-heated sealing surface having a generally ~~v-shaped~~ V-shaped profile.

Claim 10. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 9, wherein:
said sealing and severing means includes two pivot arms and a piston actuator.

Claim 11. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 10, wherein:
said two pivot arms are coupled to each other by gears.

Claim 12. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 9, further comprising:

c) inversion means for reorienting the packaging material downstream of said feeder spool, said inversion means reorienting the packaging material such that the center fold is substantially vertical.

Claim 13. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 12, wherein:
said inversion means is substantially inverted-V-shaped.

Claim 14. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 12, wherein:

said inversion means is adjustable to accommodate different sized packaging material.

Claim 15. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 12, wherein:

said inversion means is made from substantially flexible wire.

Claim 16. (Currently Amended) A vertical bagging apparatus for use with a roll of center folded packaging material, said apparatus comprising:

a) an upstream feeder spool for holding the roll of center folded packaging material; and

b) a downstream sealing and severing means for sealing the packaging material and severing it from the roll, wherein

said sealing and severing means includes a heated bar having a continuous flat head and an opposed, ~~resilient~~ compliant, non-heated sealing surface having a generally v-shaped profile,

said continuous flat head and said ~~resilient~~ compliant sealing surface being adapted to press against each other wherein said ~~resilient~~ compliant ~~v-shaped~~ V-shaped profile deforms to define a continuous mating surface between said sharp profile and said continuous flat head.

Claim 17. (Currently Amended) A vertical bagging apparatus for use with a roll of center folded packaging material, said apparatus comprising:

a) an upstream feeder spool for holding the roll of center folded packaging material; and

b) a downstream sealing and severing means for sealing the packaging material and severing it from the roll, wherein

said sealing and severing means includes a heated bar having a flat head and an opposed, ~~resilient~~ compliant, non-heated sealing surface having a generally ~~v-~~ V-shaped profile, and

said sealing and severing means includes rigidly mounted actuators coupled to pivotally mounted members which provide for sealing and severing on a parallel plane.

Claim 18. (Previously Added) The apparatus according to claim 17, further comprising:

c) inversion means for reorienting the packaging material downstream of said feeder spool, said inversion means reorienting the packaging material such that, upon completion of the severing process, the packaged goods are then reoriented into a vertical delivery position.

Claim 19. (Previously Added) The apparatus according to claim 16, further comprising:

c) inversion means for reorienting the packaging material downstream of said feeder spool, said inversion means reorienting the packaging material such that, upon completion of the severing process, the packaged goods are then reoriented into a vertical delivery position.

Claim 20. (Previously Added) The apparatus according to Claim 9, wherein said generally ~~v-shaped~~ V-shaped profile has an included angle of ninety degrees.

Claim 21. (Previously Added) The apparatus according to Claim 16, wherein said generally ~~v-shaped~~ V-shaped profile has an included angle of ninety degrees.

Claim 22. (Previously Added) The apparatus according to Claim 17, wherein said generally ~~v-shaped~~ V-shaped profile has an included angle of ninety degrees.